

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-30 (cancelled).

31 (new). A coated chewing gum comprising a core of chewing gum and a coating, wherein said coating comprises one or more coating materials and one or more flavor(s), said flavor(s) being in the form of a powder when applied to the coating and at least one flavor is (a) an encapsulated flavor, (b) a natural vegetable flavoring agent, or (c) both (a) and (b) above.

32 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 31, wherein the flavors are each both an encapsulated flavor and a natural vegetable flavoring agent.

33 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 31, wherein the natural vegetable flavoring agent has a water content of less than 75% by weight.

34 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 33, wherein the water content of the natural vegetable flavoring agent is less than 15% by weight.

35 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 31, wherein the natural vegetable flavoring agent is selected from the group consisting of fruits and herbs.

36 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 31, wherein the natural vegetable flavoring agent was extracted from one or more vegetables each selected from the group consisting of a coconut, a grape fruit, an orange, a lime, a lemon, a mandarin, a pineapple, a strawberry, a raspberry, a mango, a passion fruit, a kiwi, an apple, a pear, a peach, an apricot, a cherry, a grape, a banana, a cranberry, a blueberry, a black currant, a red currant, a gooseberry, a lingonberry, thyme, a basil, a valerian, a fennel, a parsley, a camomile, a tarragon, a lavender, a dill, a cumin, a bergamot, a sage, an aloe vera, a spearmint, a peppermint, and an eucalyptus.

37 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 31, wherein the natural vegetable flavoring agent has been freeze-dried.

38 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 31, wherein the natural vegetable flavoring agent is in the form of a powder, said powder comprising a particle having a particle size of at most 3 mm, calculated as the longest dimension of the particle.

39 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 31, wherein the natural vegetable flavoring agent is in the form of a powder, said powder comprising a particle having a particle size from 3 μ m to 2 mm, calculated as the longest dimension of the particle.

40 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 31, wherein the natural vegetable flavoring agent comprises seed from a fruit, and which seeds are substantially intact.

41 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 31, wherein the natural vegetable flavoring agent also provides the gum formulation with natural color.

42 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 31, wherein the coating furthermore comprises a flavor selected from the group consisting of peppermint, periwinkle, eucalyptus, spearmint, anethol, menthol, powdered anise, orange, lemon, mango, pineapple, lime, strawberry, cherry, black currant, blueberry, raspberry, wild berry, cranberry, apple, pear, banana, prune, and plum flavor.

43 (new). The coated chewing gum of claim 31, wherein at least one flavor is encapsulated and the encapsulation of the encapsulated flavor comprises at least one encapsulation agent, each encapsulation agent being selected from the group consisting of fatty substances, waxes, gelatin, gum arabic, starch, cellulose, cellulose derivatives, shellac, polyvinyl acetate (PVA), polyethylene (PE), casein, zein, B cyclodextrine, silica, yeast cells, hydrogenated soy bean, cottonseed, coconut, sunflower, palm kernel, rapeseed, ricinus oil, bees' wax,

candelilla wax, carnauba wax, paraffin wax, and polyethylene wax.

44 (new). The coated chewing gum of claim 31, wherein the coating furthermore comprises an active substance selected from group consisting of a high potency sweetener and an acid.

45 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 44, wherein said active substance is in the form of a powder when applied to the coating.

46 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 44, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of a citric acid, a malic acid, a tartaric acid, a lactic acid, and an ascorbic acid.

47 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 44, wherein the high potency sweetener is selected from the group consisting of aspartame, acesulfame K, saccharin, cyclamate, neohesiridine, thaumatin, glycyrrhizin, monellin, sucrolase, and alitame.

48 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 31, wherein the coating furthermore comprises at least one functional substance, each selected from the group consisting of vitamins, cooling agents and flavor enhancers.

49 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 48, wherein the functional substance is in the form of a powder when applied to the coating.

50 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 44, wherein the active substance is in an encapsulated form when applied to the coating.

51 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 44, wherein the encapsulated active substance is encapsulated in one or more material(s) each selected from the group consisting of fatty substances, waxes gelatine, gum arabic, starch, cellulose, cellulose derivatives, shellac, polyvinyl acetate, polyethylene, casein, zein, B cyclodextrine, silica, and yeast cells.

52 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 31, wherein the coating furthermore comprises one or more active substances(s), incorporated into the coating while in liquid

form, said active substances each being selected from the group consisting of a flavor, a high potency sweetener and an acid.

53 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 31, wherein the coating furthermore comprises at least one salt.

54 (new). The coated chewing gum according to claim 53, wherein each salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, potassium chloride, ammonium chloride, sodium bicarbonate, and carbamide.

55 (new). A method of preparing a coated chewing gum according to claim 31, the method comprising the following steps:

- 1) preparing of a core of chewing gum,
- 2) preparing of a coating suspension,
- 3) applying of the coating suspension onto the cores of chewing gum,
- 4) applying, in one or more increment(s), at least one flavor onto the cores of chewing gum resulting from step 3), said flavor being (a) an encapsulated flavor, (b) a natural vegetable flavoring agent, or (c) both (a) and (b) above, said flavor being in the form of a powder when being applied to cores of chewing gum resulting from step 3), and optionally repeating step 3) and 4),
- 5) optionally, application of one or more liquid active substance(s) in one or more increment(s) between the applications of the coating suspension,
- 6) optionally, application of a polishing suspension.

56 (new). The method according to claim 55, wherein the coating suspension comprises an aqueous solution, said aqueous solution comprising a component selected from the group consisting of a sugar, a sugar alcohol, an artificial sweetener or a mixture thereof.

57 (new). The method according to claim 55, wherein the coating suspension comprises an aqueous solution of one or more constituent(s) selected from the group consisting of saccharose,

USSN - 09/623,425

dextrose, sorbitol, xylitol, tagatose, mannitol, maltitol, isomalt, aspartame, acesulfame K, saccharine, cyclamate, taline, and neohesperidine.

58 (new). The method according to claim 55, wherein the coating suspension is applied in 2 to 90 increments.

59 (new). The method according to claim 55, wherein the flavor is applied to the coating in 1 to 10 increment(s) between the dosages of the coating suspension.